

# KIDS CONNECT *fact sheet*

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## What is KIDS CONNECT?

KIDS CONNECT is a program that provides specialized services at licensed childcare centers that can help children with special needs participate, play and learn, along with their typically-developing peers. Licensed childcare centers and after-school care programs contract with the State to provide this service.

## Who is eligible for this service?

A child must meet the following requirements to be eligible for KIDS CONNECT services. He or she must be –

- eligible for Medical Assistance,
- 6 weeks old - age 16,
- a Rhode Island resident,
- live at home, and
- have a chronic condition- cognitive, physical, developmental and/or psychiatric- that is moderate to severe.

## Benefits of KIDS CONNECT

Through participation in a childcare or after school setting, the child is able to maintain or improve communication and social skills, behavioral and/or cognitive development. Children who require one-on-one support are not eligible for this program.

## Participating KIDS CONNECT agencies

- Child Inc. – Coventry, E. Greenwich, Warwick, W. Greenwich, W. Warwick
- Children's Friend and Service – Central Falls
- Cornerstone School – Cranston ARC – Cranston
- Crayons Child Care & Family Services, Inc. – Trudeau Center – Warwick
- Dr. Daycare Therapeutic Childcare – Cumberland, Foster, Lincoln, N. Providence, N. Smithfield, Pawtucket, Providence, Warwick, Woonsocket.
- Alphabet Soup – The Fogarty Center – N. Providence
- Meeting Street – Providence
- Imagine Preschool – The Providence Center – Warwick
- Westbay Community Action
  - Westbay Children's Center – Warwick
  - Sunshine Child Development Center – N. Kingston

## How much does it cost?

The family pays for the cost of child care or after-school care. Medicaid would reimburse the child care agency for only the therapeutic services and/or staff time to provide the services. There is no cost to the family for the therapeutic services provided at the child care center or after school facility. For some children, nursing care is available for up to one hour per day.

## How to apply

KIDS CONNECT is a CEDARR service, which means that a parent/guardian must first call a CEDARR Family Center. The CEDARR Family Center would develop a care plan with the family and determine if KIDS CONNECT would benefit their child.

## For more information

Please contact a CEDARR Family Center for more information. CEDARR Family Centers serve Medicaid-eligible children and their families throughout the state.

## CEDARR Family Centers in Rhode Island

About Families, Pawtucket (401) 365-6855, There is also an office in Portsmouth.

Empowered Families, Pawtucket (401) 365-6103, (888) 881-6380

Families First at Hasbro Children's Hospital, Providence (401) 444-7703

Solutions CEDARR, Providence and North Kingstown (401) 461-4351, (800) 640-7283

Gary D. Alexander, Director   Donald L. Carcieri, Governor  
RI Department of Human Services